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Customer No. 26874
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Atty. Docket: END5131.0517373

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Swayze, et al. : Paper No:
Serial No. 10/673,662 : Group Art Unit: 3721
Filed: September 29, 2003 : Examiner: Brian D. Nash
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING MULTISTROKE FIRING
INCORPORATING A TRACTION-BIASED RACHETING MECHANISM

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated February 2, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.